

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3-11 and 19.

Without acceding to the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,410,669 to Biggs, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer and rewritten Claims 3 and 5 in independent form, with clarifying editorial revisions not affecting allowability. Accordingly, Claims 3 and 5 (and their respective dependents, some of which have also been editorially revised) are allowable.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Biggs in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,790 to Kumar, without acceding to the rejection, Applicants have cancelled Claims 12-16 without prejudice or disclaimer and rewritten Claim 17 in independent form. Independent Claim 17 now includes the features of cancelled Claims 12, 13, and 14, as well as aspects of cancelled Claim 16. As presently amended, Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, a read buffer which performs an operation to output data, read from the second memory area via the internal

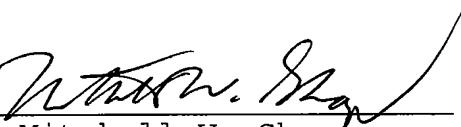
memory controller, when the second memory area is read accessed as memory which is not cache memory by the internal memory controller.

It is apparent that Biggs and Kumar, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least this limitation of Claim 17. The Office Action rightfully acknowledges that Biggs does not disclose a read buffer. Moreover, Kumar, which the Office Action relied upon as allegedly teaching the read buffer of original Claim 17, fails to teach or suggest implementing a read buffer to output data read from the second memory area via the internal memory controller, as recited in amended Claim 17. Accordingly, Claim 17 (and its dependent claims) is allowable over Biggs and Kumar, whether taken alone or in combination.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10256) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Mitchell W. Shapiro

Reg. No. 31,568

Patrick Miller  
Reg. No. 57,502

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.  
1751 Pinnacle Drive  
Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833  
(703) 903-9000

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